**Corrida**

**You Tube: Bullfighting in the Arles Arena, Part 1**

**Ferias d’Arles, Pâques 2007**

**3 stages:**

Beginning: A session called the Paseo opens the Corrida. Two men (picadors) on horses walk towards the President of the Corrida followed by two matadors and their teams of paons and picadors. When they have left the arena the corrida with its three stages begins.

1st stage: The first stage of the Pique starts with the entry of the bull into the arena. Paons make the bull run about and the matador studies his adversary. Then the matador tries a few passes. On the orders of the President, the picadors on horseback make their entry and have to stab the bull on the fleshy bit on the top of the bull’s shoulders. Finally the bull’s rage diminishes and it lowers its head.

2nd Part: Then comes the part with the banderilleras which are batons 70 cms long decorated with ribbons. The banderilleros sticks these in the bull’s back in pairs.

3rd Part: The cape and the sword and the death. The sounds of trumpets announce the third part of the corrida. The mulleta which is a baton 50 cms long from which hangs red material

The matador presents himself before the President and dedicates his first bull to him and asks permission to fight the bull. He then executes a number of passes. The final stage is putting the bull to death with the epée. The matador has a quarter of an hour to dispose of the animal. By public demand the matador is rewarded with an ear.

Also see: You Tube - Four Matadors in Arles, France.

*Lesson activity: After seeing the PowerPoint and YouTube video, boys get into groups and discuss pros and cons of bullfighting and present their findings.*

Pros

These are special fighting bulls that have been bred for the ring.

They are splendid creatures, mythological beasts, nurtured for their aggression. No amount of protestors can turn them into a gentle cow munching grass in an orchard.

If you are against bull-fighting, you should be against horse-racing, eating meat etc.

The writer, Hemmingway, expected to be horrified but was transfixed. He saw the passionate ritual which is not about the bull but the matador facing the bull. It is about mastering fear for the matador. It is a display of sheer courage which puts you in touch with the Roman gladiatorial games.

It is amazingly exciting and is a huge spectacle for the audience. It has nothing to do with sport but is an ancient ceremony, re-enacting the death of an innocent victim.

The animal is eaten after the fight so his death is not in vain.

The final kill is quick.

There are far more animals dying in unfit slaughterhouses than in the ring. Even if the barbarity of a slaughterhouse does not excuse bulls dying in the ring, but maybe the protestors would be better tying to close unfit slaughterhouses instead?

The EU shows no signs of stepping in to ban bullfighting

In most places where bullfighting still exists, it is part of a tradition and centuries old culture.

Cons

The animals are in pain when they are pierced with the bandereilleros.

If numbers of people attending become lower and also tourists stop attending, then the fighting may be stopped.

Wild animals will never kill for sport, only for necessity.

The bull is put through torment before he is released into the ring

The bull is kept in the dark before being released into the ring so can’t see very well when he enters the ring.

The sport of bull-fighting is a one-sided affair with the bull at a great disadvantage.